Canadian Trip.
June, 1934

MEMORANDUM

May 25 1934

Left Washington, D.C. 4.15 P.M.

May 26 - June 3

Arrived Chicago 8.40 A.M.

Annual leave 9 A.M. May 26 to 4.30 P.M. June 3.

Resumed official travel at Omaha, 9.30 P.M.

June 4

Arrived St. Paul 7.50 A.M.

Left St. Paul by auto with Aldous 3.40 P.M., arrived at Hutchinson about 5.30 P.M went to Sam. G. Anderson's farm and talked with them until 10.30 P.M. Stayed over night in Hutchinson. Anderson has waterfowl refuge in which he keeps several whistling swans and representatives of nearly all the geese of N.A including four Emperors.

June 4 con.

All of these birds appear to be thriving. Also there are breeding mallard ducks.

June 5.

Hutchinson to Little Falls. Spent day largely with Sam. G. Anderson, and Game Warden Warner in visiting areas in the vicinity of Hutchinson including Eagle Lake, Bill Corrigan Slough, Phare's Lake, Boon Lake, Silver Lake, Swan Lake, and Bear Lake now entirely dry. On Bear Lake 50000 ducks at a time are said to have congregated in the month of August from the other smaller breeding areas in the general region.

Left Hutchinson about 4 P.M. and arrived Little Falls about 8 P.M.

June 6.
Little Falls to Cass Lake,
Minn. Followed the highway
nearly due north to Cass
Lake. Left Little Falls about
8 a.m. and arrived Cass
Lake about noon. Drove
southeast to Pokegama
Dam, on Mississippi River
about 30 miles southeast
of Winnibigoshish Lake.
Talked with dam tender
Guy Bilyeu who went with
us to visit Blackwater Lake,
formerly a good breeding
area for ducks. Returned
in evening to Cass Lake 6 P.M.,

June 7
Cass Lake to Warren, Minn.
Drove west through Bagley
and Erskine to Crookston and
north to Warren. Stopped
at various points en route.
Country changed to Transition

June 7. con.

Zone west of Bagley became more level, with black soil and more open and prairie-like. Coniferous forest left behind. What timber there is is mainly hardwoods.

Country from Crookston north very level and said to be a part of the bottom of the ancient Lake Agassiz.

Left Cass Lake 9.40 A.M. and arrived Warren 4.30 P.M.

Weather. Began raining hard about 3 A.M. and a cold rainstorm continued all day with heavy downfall at times. Temp. 38° at Cass Lake this morning.

June 8

Warren to Winnipeg, Manit. Off 8.30 arrived 1 P.M.

Travelled through dead level country down the valley of

June 8.

Red River. Quite intensively cultivated, large fields of grain several inches high. Drought has been severe and in places there are drifts of fine black loam along the road sides showing effect of wind. Farms are interrupted by patches of aspen woods and some areas of hardwoods, including oaks.

International Boundary. We crossed the line at Emerson at 11 A.M. Canadian border officials very courteous.

Corvus. - North of Morris we counted crows in grain fields along the highway and noted 16 in a distance of 10 miles. Crows seemed more abundant than in the general area covered in Minnesota.

Conferred in afternoon with A.G. Cunningham, Director of Forests & Game, and with A.E.

June 9.

Etter who is the game commissioner in Saskatchewan with headquarters in Regina.

June 9.

In morning conferred with Tom Lamb, Moose Lake, Manitoba who has extensive fur interests in the Moose Lake region, east of The Pas and not very far from the N.W. corner of Lake Winnipeg.

Lamb says: Ducks and geese bred formerly much more abundantly than during the last four or five years and the area has been affected some by drouth, there are still a great many breeding birds and unlimited suitable food and water conditions.

Swans. - Lamb says that several hundred - he fixed the number tentatively at 500 - nest in the Moose Lake area or their northward and southward

June 9

migration. This spring they spent several weeks there.

Lamb says principal breeding ducks are:

Pintail
Mallard
Spoonbill
Canvasback
Blue winged teal
Green winged "
Redhead
Bufflehead

} all of these fairly abundant but not all

Scoter
Wood duck
Ruddy

} Less abundant

Lamb says that 3 years ago many ducks died in fall of some disease, just before migrating.

Canada geese: Lamb says a considerable number breed in the Moose Lake area but not so many as formerly.

June 9

In the afternoon we drove out with Mr. Gibson, a provincial game warden, to the Netley Marsh at the south end of Lake Winnipeg. Arrangements were made for a boat to take us out into the marsh on the 11th. We skirted the edges of the great marsh for a short distance on foot and noted the following:

Blue-winged teal, about a dozen
Pintail, 1
Mallard, 2
Canvas back 2 - a pair.
American bittern, 3
Black tern, dozens
Tern (with black head)
Sturnella (both kinds)
Mud hen, 2

Returned in evening to Winnipeg.

June 10 (Sun)

Remained at Winnipeg. Day spent mainly in preparing Minn. report.

June 11 (Mon)

Winnipeg to Netley Marsh, near mouth of Red River, and return.

Off about 8.30 a.m. and returned about 7.20 P.M.

Aldous and I made trip to great marsh in delta of Red River where we hired a motor boat and canoe and cruised about through several of the channels affording a fairly clear idea of breeding conditions for waterfowl.

Winter snowfall. Gibson says heavy snowfall in this region last winter.

June 12 (Tue.)

Winnipeg to lodge of Eugene Roy near St. Ambrose, ~~a few miles south of~~ near the southern end of Lake Manitoba.

Drove about 60 miles northwest from Winnipeg through nearly level farming and grazing country. Much of it was formerly sloughs that were drained or have dried up owing to drouth. Some of these are now cultivated fields but a great many are still moist and covered in part with marsh-land vegetation. Patches of aspens and small areas of hardwoods, largely oaks grow especially along the Assiniboine River. Near St. Ambrose a few miles south of Lake Manitoba are low gravelly and stony ridges, apparently glacial

June 12

Green-winged teal, according to Roy a good many breed here that we did not see today.

Scaups, Usually very few breed here according to Roy, but [illegible] breed.

Goldeneye — Roy says does not breed here, only in the fall.

Ducks — Roy says they arrive here from north in fall very poor but fatten during their stay here. This suggests poor feed conditions farther north.

Roy says Blue-winged teal start going by Sept. 20.

Swans visit this section in spring and fall.

June 12, cont.

[illegible]

Ducks — Formerly a great number of ducks nested in sloughs that are now dry. A few retain a little water and at one of these beside the road we saw five adult spoonbills and 2 male mallards.

In afternoon we make trip into the marsh to Lake Francis about 3 miles from Eugene Roy's lodge. Many ducks were seen. In places loose aggregations of 100 or more.

Ducks there noted in marshes near Lake Francis, hundreds of each in the aggregate were spoonbills (most abundant species). After these an abundant mixture of redheads, canvas backs, ruddy, mallard.

Order of abundance

1. Spoonbill —	100's
2. Teal	100's
3. Redhead —	"
4. Scaup	"

Lesser snow & blue geese, -
Roy confirms statements of others that these birds do not come this way in the fall but return this way in numbers in the spring. Many feel they should be allowed to shoot some. Appear to be increasing. Roy says that 25 years ago according to his recollection all the geese that came were whites - no blues.

Upland plover. - Plenty heard here but not yet seen by us.

Snow - Heavy last winter.

Ducks remain until it freezes up, gone by about the end of the first of Nov,

June 12

5. Pintail - about a 100
6. Canvas back "
7. Ruddy "
9. Gadwall a few ✓
8. Widgeon "
10 Scoter - at least 2 pairs,

Marbled Godwit One Said by Roy to breed in numbers,

Pintail and mallards first birds to appear in spring according to Roy.

Teal are late arrivals in spring.

Goldeneyes are scarce ducks in spring.

Black mallards - very few here at any time - a few may breed according to Roy, but he is doubtful about it,

June 13

St. Ambrose to Delta, Man.
Off 9.30 A.M., arrived 5 P.M.

Drove with Gibson, game warden continuing as guide, through a flat area, formerly a fine duck breeding section from which the water has receded or disappeared except very near Lake Manitoba to Delta. We passed many hunting lodges which are now at considerable distance from water, or from which the water has receded if they remain near open water.

We passed Sioux Pass, and Flea Island where there is still open water, also Portage Creek. These are inlets of the Lake, where we found a considerable number of ducks, largely canvasbacks and spoonbills with a general mixture of others.

June 13, con

At Delta we met E. Ward who is in charge of a duck breeding plant for Mr. Bell of Minneapolis. Here hundreds of young ducks are being ~~ha~~ hatched in incubators with great success. This work is now in progress for the 3d year and Ward estimates that he will be able to raise at 67% of the ducks this year.

June 14

Ditto to Winnipeg + Neepawa

Off about 8.30, arrived Winnipeg about 12.30 P.M.

Conferred with Mr. Cunningham in afternoon and arranged to leave again for Lake Winnipegosis section. Off again with Game Warden, Handley, arrived Neepawa about 9 P.M.

Cunningham regards Mallards as most abundant ducks in region as a whole,

June 15

Neepawa to Winnepegosis, Man.

Off 8 AM; arrived 5 PM.

Drove west from Neepawa to point between Minnedosa and Shoal Lake where we turned north and east across Riding Mountain National Park to Dauphin and from there continued north to Winnepegosis.

From Neepawa west we drove through undulating rolling country which seems to be a part of the Riding Mountain area. We soon began to note short-tailed ground squirrels that were very abundant and had habits similar to small prairie dogs, probably *Citellus richardsoni*. We

Citellus franklini, noted on plain south of Dauphin.

Eutamias. What I took to be this seen in Riding Mountain Nat. Park.

June 15 con.

Pot hole region west of Neepawa,
quite a setting
In this section we found a number of pot holes – little lakes several acres in extent in which there is a varied assortment of ducks breeding including a rather large number of canvasbacks.

In ~~the~~ Riding Mt. Park area, however, ~~the~~ lakes of fair size were surrounded by sandy beaches and were barren of ducks.

Game forage:– In Riding Mt. Park elk are evidently too numerous and are heavily browsing aspens, dogwoods, willows and other vegetation making a distinct "line".

June 16

Winnipegosis to Snake and Long Island in Lake Winnipegosis and return, and drove to Dauphin.

Trip on large boat of M.F.S. to islands. Snake Island has a fish hatchery on it not in use at present time. Some marsh on island. Long Island is an important feeding area, about 4 miles long and half a mile wide.

June 17

Dauphin, Man. to Wynyard, Sask.

J. Handley, game warden, returned to Winnipeg and we drove west, [illegible] noting conditions at a number of pot holes en route.

June 18

Wynyard to Prince Albert.

Drove north to narrows between Big Quill and Little Quill lakes and returned to Wynyard, continuing west to a point a little west of Viscount where we turned north over No. 2 route via Dana and Wakaw to Prince Albert. Country was less level, more hilly today.

Quill Lakes are strongly alkaline, surrounded by broad, bare mud flats with little marsh vegetation beyond near south side.

Pot holes are much better duck-breeding ponds than the lakes.

June 19
Remained at Prince Albert

June 20
Prince Albert to Emma Lake and Prince Albert National Park.

Drove north to Lake Emma and Lake Waskesiu, Prince Albert National Park.

Road was through northern "bush" type of country, the timber largely coniferous, but aspen is the dominant species over extensive areas. Country rolling.

Few ducks seen in some places that look favorable, and were absent in others that looked similarly favorable.

June 21
Prince Albert to Regina, Sask.

Drove to Regina, via Saskatoon, and Moose Jaw.
Road soon enters the prairie or level plains type of country and continues through it all the way.

A few ducks were seen in a number of ponds, but the country showed the effects of drouth more strongly south of Saskatoon — the recent rains, however have brought up the grain and all vegetation pushed by about 16 hours of daily sunshine is developing rapidly.

June 22

Drove Regina to Moose Jaw, Sask. to attend meeting Sask. Fish & Game League and returned to Regina late - about 1.30 a.m. of next day.

June 23

Worked on report in Regina until 5.30 PM, then drove to Moose Jaw to attend banquet of Sask. Fish & Game League and drove back to Regina arriving about 1.30 AM.

June 24 (Sun)

Aldous, Sidney Montague
and I were taken by Elliot
to Qu'Appelle marsh near Ft.
Qu'Appelle, returning late to Regina
Marsh. This marsh is one of
the finest for breeding ducks
that I have ever seen. There
is an abundance of open water
~~of~~ suitable depth with a profusion
of such water plants as coontail
and widgeon grass, and round
rushes and cattails affording
shelter.

Qu'Appelle Birds
1 Mallards – hundreds
2 Pintails – dozens
3 Redheads – dozens
Scaups – ~~dozens~~
4 Ruddy – dozens
Spoonbills – hundreds
Gadwalls – dozens
Blue-winged teal – hundreds
Coots – hundreds – ~~pairs~~
Horned grebes – hundreds
Canvas backs dozens.
Widgeons dozens

June 25

Remained at Regina, working on report.

June 26

Left Regina and drove to Winnipeg via Route No. 1.

Very dry across southwestern Manitoba.

Car turned over near Austin, west of Portage la Prairie.

June 27

Worked on report and got car repaired. Left 6 P.M. for Grand Forks, N Dak where we arrived 12 P.M.

June 28,
Grand Forks to Detroit Lakes

Spent in visiting a fine project that is being developed as a breeding place for ducks about 30 miles northwest of Grand Forks,

June 29.

Detroit Lakes to St Paul, Country for some distance of hill oak park type, but later we ran out into prairie type.

Morning spent with State Game Warden Glade who guided us to various beautiful lakes where very few ducks bred although water conditions look good. Otter-tail River connects and flows out of a number of the lakes.

Mallard. – Two drakes seen along a marshy ~~[illegible]~~ channel of Otter-tail River.

Teals – Several seen
Spoonbills – " "
Ardea herodias – ½ a dozen seen together.

Arrived 9.45 P.M.

June 30.

Worked on report of St Paul and left in evening at 9.35 for Washington.

July 1.

Arrived Chi. 7.35 a.m.; left
10.30 A.M. for Washington.
Drouth - Quite dry at
points in Indiana. Oats only
or a good
a few inches high headed
out. Fall wheat in shocks
apparently a fair crop. Corn
12 to 15 inches high and showing
need of ~~water~~ rain. In places
stand poor.

July 2
Arrived Washington D.C
7,55 a.m.

Dr. Nelson's Bank balance
1278.55